Jawaharlal Nehru

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | History*

Why in news?

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Ji, on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

- Jawaharlal Nehru was the ***1st Prime Minister of independent India*** (1947–64), who established parliamentary government and became noted for his neutralist policies in foreign affairs.
- He was also one of the principal leaders of the Indian Independence Movement during the 1930s and ’40s.
- **Early life -**
  - He was born in Allahabad on ***November 14, 1889*** in a Kashmiri Pandit family.
  - His father, ***Motilal Nehru***, was a wealthy barrister and twice served as President of the Indian National Congress, his Mother ***Swarup Rani Nehru.***
  - He studied in England at Harrow, then at Trinity College, Cambridge.
  - In 1912, he returned to India and started working as a ***lawyer***.
- **Role in Independence Movement -**
  - **Political ideology –** Nationalism, socialism, and democratic principles, drawing inspiration from both Fabian socialism and Marxist ideals.
  - **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)** – He played a key role in organizing political activities in the United Provinces.
  - He was also participated in **Salt Satyagraha** (1930) and **Individual Satyagraha** (1940-1941).
  - **INC presidency –** 1st became Congress President in ***1929, Lahore Session*** - passed the historic Purna Swaraj resolution, which called for complete independence from British rule.
  - In 1937, Nehru presided over the ***Faizpur session***, which was the first INC session held in a rural area.

    - In 1942, during **Quit India Movement**, Nehru, along with the entire Congress leadership, was arrested after moving the 'Quit India' resolution on 7th August 1942 in Bombay.
    - **Role in INA Trials (1945-1946) –** He along with other prominent leaders took responsibility for defending the INA soldiers during their trials.
- **Role in Interim Govt & Post Independence -**
    - During the interim government, Nehru contributed on drafting the Constitution by put forward **the 'Objective Resolution,'** which later became the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.
    - He promoted a ***mixed economy***, import substitution industrialization, ***science and technology*** by establishing many institutions of higher learning, and supporting the development of atomic power.
    - **Foreign Policy Legacy** – He was the Nehru was the chief architect of India's foreign policy, emphasizing ***non-alignment*** and peaceful coexistence, supported decolonization and Asian-African solidarity.
- **Books Written –**
    - The Discovery of India,
    - Glimpses of World History,
    - An Autobiography,
    - Letters from a Father to His Daughter.
- **Awards & Honors –**
    - In 1955, he was honored with the ***Bharat Ratna***, India's highest civilian award.
    - In 1970, the ***World Peace Council Prize*** was awarded posthumously, to acknowledged his commitment to global peace and non-alignment.
- **Legacy –** He passed away on May 27, 1964 and his birthday (Nov 14) is celebrated as ***Children's Day*** for honoring his love for children and educationin the country.

References

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3. Britannica | Jawaharlal Nehru



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